

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5 and 7-10 are rejected. Claim 6 is objected to. No new matter is believed to have been introduced through the claim amendments. It is respectfully submitted that it is believed that this paper is fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 9 and 10 have been amended as appropriate, to now even more fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Young.

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited art fails to teach all of the recitations of claim 1 of the present application. More specifically, Young fails to describe or teach at least the recitation of claim 1 of, “a dummy terminal body adapted to be inserted into said connector-terminal socket.”

Young relates to a cable/computer peripheral lock and describes a structure 118 which may be attached to a cable terminal 101 as illustrated in FIG. 1. (Young; column 1, lines 50-51). In the outstanding Office Action at page 2, the Examiner contends “a dummy terminal body (118, 121) adapted to be inserted into said connector-terminal socket (101); dummy-terminal engagement means (121) mounted on said dummy terminal body....” The Examiner’s contention is respectfully traversed. It is submitted that it does not appear as if the Examiner has fully appreciated the full recitations of claim 1.

Claim 1 specifically recites a dummy terminal body adapted to be inserted into a connector-terminal socket. Further to the Examiner’s correlations, as clearly illustrated in FIG. 1 of Young and as stated in column 1, lines 50-51 of Young, the structure 118 (alleged dummy terminal body) is merely attached to the cable terminal 101 (alleged connector-terminal socket). Accordingly, structure 118 is not inserted into cable terminal 101.

Additionally, the additional correlation the Examiner furthers regarding the sleeve 121 acting as both the dummy terminal body and the dummy-terminal engagement means would additionally fail as claim 1 specifically recites “dummy terminal engagement means mounted on said dummy terminal body.” Accordingly, the sleeve 121 could not be mounted on itself.

The Examiner has failed to provide separate and individual consideration of independent claims 5 and 7, and accordingly, is respectfully requested to do so.

Somewhat similarly to independent claim 1, the other independent claims (e.g., claims 5 and 7) recite in non-means-plus function form, “a dummy terminal body adapted to be inserted into said connector-terminal socket.” Accordingly, the above comments regarding claim 1 over the cited art are applicable here where appropriate.

Claims 3 which depends from independent claim 1 is patentable for at least the reason of its dependency therefrom. Similarly, claim 8 which depends from independent claim 7 is patentable for at least the reason of its dependency therefrom. Additionally, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner provide separate and individual consideration of the dependent claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Fields.

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited art fails to describe or teach all of the recitations of at least claim 1 of the present application. More specifically, Fields fails to describe or teach at least the recitation of claim 1 of, “dummy-terminal lock means including a lock member which is mounted on said dummy terminal body....”

Fields relates to a phone jack lock and describes a key 18 that is required to retract a locking element 14 to allow a lock 10 to be removed from a jack 16. (Fields; column 2, lines 35-36).

In the outstanding Office Action at page 3, the Examiner contends, “dummy-terminal lock means (release means) (18) including a lock member which is mounted on said dummy terminal body...” The Examiner’s contention is respectfully traversed.

As clearly illustrated in FIG. 2 of Fields, the key 18 does not include a lock member which is mounted on a dummy terminal body; but instead, the key 18 of Fields is inserted into a keyhole 30 and rotates the key which causes an angled segment of the key 18 to turn inside of a tumbler aperture 34 in the locking element 14 (these elements are illustrated in FIG. 3). (Fields; column 2, line 67 to column 3, line 2). Accordingly, the key 18 of Fields does not “include” a lock member which is mounted on a dummy terminal body. Accordingly, Fields does not describe at least the aforementioned recitations of claim 1 of the present application.

Regarding independent claim 5, although the recitations are different from those of independent claim 1, the Examiner has not provided separate and individual consideration of claim 5. More specifically, the Examiner has failed to address at least the recitation of claim 5 of, “... said dummy terminal body having a base, an upstanding segment extending upward from said base, an engagement segment which extends approximately parallel to said base, and has a distal end formed as an engagement portion adapted to be engaged with and latched by a connector-terminal latching portion formed in said connector-terminal socket and a proximal end

connected to said upstanding segment.” It is respectfully submitted that the cited art fails to describe or teach at least the aforementioned recitations of claim 5 of the present application.

Furthermore, the cited art fails to describe an upstanding segment extending upward from a base of a dummy terminal body and an engagement segment which extends approximately parallel to said base as recited in claim 5; instead, the cited art describes a singular lock element 14 which is in a locked position when its behind the inner surface of an inlet 20. (Fields; column 2, lines 60-64).

Regarding independent claim 7, although the recitations are different from those of independent claim 1, the Examiner has not provided separate and individual consideration of claim 7. It is respectfully submitted that the cited art fails to describe at least the recitation of claim 7 of, “...an upstanding segment extending upward from said base, an engagement segment which extends approximately parallel to said base....” Instead, the cited art describes a singular lock element 14 which is in a locked position when its behind the inner surface of an inlet 20. (Fields; column 2, lines 60-64).

Further, claim 3 which depends from independent claim 1 is patentable for at least the reason of its dependency therefrom. Similarly, claim 8 which depends from independent claim 7 is patentable for at least the reason of its dependency therefrom. Separate and individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Document WO 03/028166 (an inventor – Valentine).

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is submitted that the cited art fails to describe or teach at least the recitation of claim 1 of, “dummy-terminal lock means including a lock member which is mounted on said dummy terminal body.”

In the outstanding Office Action at page 4, the Examiner contends, “and dummy-terminal lock means (230, p.5 lines 11-18) including a lock member which is mounted on said dummy terminal body....” The Examiner’s contention is respectfully traversed.

The alleged dummy-terminal lock means (key 230 of Valentine) clearly does not include a lock member which is mounted on a dummy terminal body. Instead, key 230 of Valentine is turnably inserted into a key-receiving portion 212. (Valentine; page 5, lines 13-14).

Accordingly, the cited art fails to describe or teach at least the aforementioned recitations of claim 1.

Regarding independent claims 5 and 7, the Examiner has failed to provide separate and individual consideration of said claims. However, it is respectfully submitted that the cited art fails to describe or teach at least the recitation of claim 5 of, “...said dummy terminal body having a base, an upstanding segment extending upward from said base, an engagement segment which extends approximately parallel to said base....” Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the cited art fails to describe or teach at least the recitation of claim 7 of, “...said dummy

terminal body having a base, an upstanding segment extending upward from said base, an engagement segment which extends approximately parallel to said base....”

Claim 2 which depends from independent claim 1 is patentable for at least the reason of its dependency therefrom.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hori et al.

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is submitted that the cited art fails to describe or teach at least the recitation of claim 1 of, “dummy-terminal lock means including a lock member which is mounted on said dummy terminal body.”

In the outstanding Office Action at page 5, the Examiner contends that, “dummy-terminal lock means (7) including a lock member which is mounted on said dummy terminal body....” The Examiner’s contention is traversed.

Hori relates to a connecting block for a telephone and describes a pin 7 that may be inserted through holes 23 across an opening 3a of a jack 3, as illustrated in solid lines in FIG. 1 of Hori. (Hori; column 3, lines 4-7). Accordingly, as the alleged dummy-terminal lock means (pin 7 of Hori) extends through the side walls of a plug 4 transversely, the cited art does not describe at least the aforementioned recitations of claim 1 of the present application.

Regarding independent claims 5 and 7, the Examiner has failed to provide separate and individual consideration of said claims. However, it is respectfully submitted that the cited art fails to describe or teach at least the recitation of claim 5 of, "...said dummy terminal body having a base, an upstanding segment extending upward from said base, an engagement segment which extends approximately parallel to said base...." Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the cited art fails to describe or teach at least the recitation of claim 7 of, "said dummy terminal body having a base, an upstanding segment extending upward from said base, an engagement segment which extends approximately parallel to said base...."

It is submitted that the dependent claims (e.g., claims 2, 4 and 8-10) are patentable for at least the reason of their dependency from their respective base claims. The Examiner is respectfully requested to provide separate and individual consideration of each of the dependent claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants graciously thank the Examiner for their indication that claim 6 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, it is respectfully submitted that the above rejections are moot in view of the arguments presented above.

Application No.: 10/580,539
Art Unit: 2833

Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Attorney Docket No.: 062571

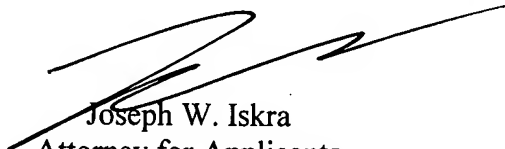
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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